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Attorney Docket No. 056314/0002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenichi IGA et al. Group Art Unit: 2882  
Serial No.: 09/717,733 Examiner: Chih-Cheng Glen Kao  
Filed: November 21, 2000  
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER  
SPLICING**

#5/Amend A  
Aldred  
1/13/03

December 31, 2002

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 2, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 2, 2002 in the above-referenced patent application. This Response is being submitted within the shortened statutory period set for response in the Office Action.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

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